UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/47/PV.71
10 December 1992

ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 71st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 24 November 1992, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GANEV (Bulgaria)

- Tribute to the memory of Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

- Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba: draft resolution [39] (continued)

- The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti [22]

  (a) Report of the Secretary-General

  (b) Draft resolution

Tentative programme of work

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE, PRESIDENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The PRESIDENT: It is my sad duty to inform members of the death of Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and to the bereaved family.

I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the late President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Mauritius, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. PEERTHUM (Mauritius): I have the honour, on behalf of the Group of African States at the United Nations, to express our sincere condolences to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the death of Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane, the late President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Our sympathy also goes to his family at this difficult moment.

We are familiar with the qualities of the late President, who also served as Prime Minister of his country, and with his great contributions to its development. The international community is saddened by the untimely loss of a great statesman, whose untiring efforts were dedicated to the welfare of his people. He will be greatly missed, but the memory of his accomplishments will stand as an example.

I would also like to extend the deep sympathy of the African Group to the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the United Arab Emirates, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the Asian Group, which I have the honour of chairing this month, may I extend heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic over the death of the late Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane. We share their grief over the loss of a great leader and freedom-fighter, who worked hard to liberate his country from foreign occupation, and contributed to the promotion of peace and of social and economic development in his country.

The record of the late President highlights the pioneering and leading role he played since he was a student, in his country's struggle for independence and for its deserved place at the regional and international levels. He was in the vanguard of fighters who gave their lives in the service of their country and the aspirations of their nation.

We, in the Asian Group, given the historic and geographic ties, and the relations of cooperation and friendship that exist between us and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which is a member of the Asian Group, would like to extend, once again, to the Government, the people and the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, our sincere condolences over the loss of the late President. We hope that these sentiments will be conveyed to the Government and to the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and to the family of the late President.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Azerbaijan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. HASSANOV (Azerbaijan) (interpretation from Russian): It was with profound grief that we learned of the passing of the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane.

Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane was the leader of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for many years and made great efforts for the rebirth and the development of his people and his country. Under his guidance the Lao People's Democratic Republic made great progress and became one of the active members of the world community and a member of a number of authoritative international organizations. An eminent politician in South-East Asia and in the world community, Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane made a significant contribution to the attainment of peace and cooperation among countries.

Speaking as Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, I should like, on behalf of all of the countries in our Group, to express profound condolences to the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on their sad loss.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Venezuela, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. ARRIA (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, we should like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, to the Government and to the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the passing of President Kaysone Phomvihane.

From the time he was a student, President Phomvihane devoted his entire life to his country's independence and national liberation and to the creation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Latin American and Caribbean Group wishes to express its sincerest condolences on his passing.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Spain, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): I am speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, of which Spain is Chairman for this month. We join previous speakers in expressing condolences to the Government and the people of Laos on the recent death of His Excellency Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. I would ask the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to convey our condolences to Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane's family.

Throughout his life, Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane was dedicated to the cause of the independence and development of his country. In these sad circumstances we stand with the people of Laos and wish them the best for the future.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the United States of America, who will speak on behalf of the host country.

Miss TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America): On behalf of the host country I should like to extend our condolences to the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the death of President Kaysone Phomvihane. His leadership over the years led the people of Laos to better relations and closer cooperation with the peoples of many other countries, including the United States. We offer our deep sympathy.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations.

Mr. KHAMSY (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (interpretation from French): My colleagues in the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and I are deeply moved by the words of sympathy and condolence expressed here to the Government and the people of Laos and to the bereaved

(Mr. Khamsy, Lao People's Democratic Republic)

family of the late President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane, who died on 21 November at Vientiane following a long illness.

The late President Kaysone Phomvihane was born in 1920 at Savannkhet, capital of the central province of Laos. He studied at the University of Hanoi at a time when all of Indo-China was under French colonial administration. He devoted virtually his whole life to the struggle for national independence and to strengthening the unity of the multi-ethnic Lao people. After our homeland's total liberation in 1975 and to his dying day, he dedicated himself, first as Prime Minister then as Head of State, to meeting the difficult challenge of national defence and reconstruction and to strenthening cooperation between our young republic and all other countries, and particularly with our immediate neighbours.

With the death of President Kaysone Phomvihane, our country has lost one of the greatest citizens in contemporary history.

I wish on behalf of the Government and the people of Laos to ask representatives to transmit to their Governments our profound gratitude at this sad moment.

AGENDA ITEM 39 (continued)

NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/47/L.20/Rev.1)

The PRESIDENT: Before we hear the first speaker in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/47/L.20/Rev.1, I would remind delegations that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. YAMAMOTO (Japan): Before proceeding with my statement in explanation of vote, I want to join you, Mr. President, and other delegations in conveying my sincere condolences to the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

I wish to put on record the position of Japan, which abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/47/L.20/Rev.1.

First, Japan still has some doubts as to whether a discussion in the General Assembly can actually be conducive to resolving in a constructive way the question of the United States embargo against Cuba.

Secondly, various countries have expressed their concerns about the Cuban Democracy Act, as it contains some provisions that could affect the rights and interests of third nations. Japan fully understands such concerns.

Those points illustrate the very complex nature of this question. Japan wonders whether the draft resolution adopted this morning as resolution 47/19 can in fact properly address that complexity. If it cannot, the question will remain unresolved until a better way is found to achieve an appropriate solution.

Mr. WIDE (Sweden): In the specific case of recent legislation applying to Cuba, which has possible extraterritorial effects, the Swedish Government has expressed its position of criticism based on certain principles of international law.

The third preambular paragraph of the resolution adopted this morning is of a general character and seems to cover not only specific measures against Cuba but also a whole range of other measures with extra-territorial effects. Sweden thinks that the broader question of extraterritoriality is a

(Mr. Wide, Sweden)

complicated legal issue that can be thoroughly examined only in an appropriate context. Sweden therefore abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/47/L.20/Rev.1.

We note that 21 Ibero-American countries have requested the inclusion of a new agenda item concerning extraterritoriality, and that the General Assembly has decided to refer that item to the Sixth Committee.

Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh): My delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/47/L.20/Rev.1. In explaining our abstention, I should like to point out that our abstention should not be construed as opposition to universally recognized principles of free trade and shipping or to relevant international law, including the internationally accepted norms of the non-extraterritoriality of domestic legislation.

(Mr. Kabir, Bangladesh)

Bangladesh firmly believes that, as was reiterated at the Tenth Summit Conference of non-aligned countries in Jakarta, peace, security and social and economic justice can only be based on the rule of law and the principles enshrined in the Charter. We also believe in the inadmissibility of the use of force and the assertion by States of claims to exercise extraterritorial rights. Inter-State and international relations are best governed by international law and respect for the sovereignty of nations.

We believe that the rapprochement between the United States and Cuba would contribute to the stability of the region. Bangladesh also believes that with the end of the cold war any differences can be resolved in a spirit of cooperation.

We abstained in the vote because this resolution, in our view, which rightly points out the supremacy of international law, may not contribute to the process of rapprochement. If the resolution had been subjected to wider consultations, perhaps a more unified approach could have emerged, thus facilitating adoption by consensus. This would have helped the process of reconciliation under the new political climate of détente and cooperation.

We hope sincerely that both the United States and Cuba will seize the opportunity offered by the momentum of peace and try to resolve their differences in order to lift the embargo by peaceful bilateral negotiations, thus further consolidating the post-cold-war edifice of peace.

Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/47/L.20/Rev.1. However, while Trinidad and Tobago accepts that States are free to enact legislation governing their trading relations with other States, my delegation wishes to record its objection to

(Mrs. George, Trinidad and Tobago)

the extraterritorial application of such regulations as can affect the sovereignty of third States.

My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statement made earlier today by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the non-aligned States.

Mr. CHIARADIA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): In accordance with instructions I have received, I wish to set forth some of the reasons for the vote my Government cast on the draft resolution submitted under the item now before the Assembly.

First, my Government considers that the framework of the resolution is exceeded by an underlying political issue. The Republic of Argentina joins the rest of the international community in rejecting any limitation on State sovereignty in regard to free trade with third countries. This position has been clearly stated on a number of occasions, in particular in the joint statement by Presidents Salinas de Gortari and Menem last October in Mexico City.

Apart from that, and above and beyond the contents of the resolution, the Government of Argentina cannot but take into account the situation in which Cuba finds itself as a result of the persistence of a political system that does not make possible the full and effective exercise of individual and political rights. This situation is an anomaly in the Latin American region, where the democratic, representative system of government has been strengthened over the past few years.

Bearing in mind the principles involved and the political realities, the Government of Argentina decided to abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/47/L.20/Rev.1.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 39?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 22

THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/47/599 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/47/L.23)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this item be clo d half an hour from now.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I therefore request those representatives wishing to participate in the debate to inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible.

I call on the representative of Venezuela, who will introduce draft resolution A/47/L.23.

Mr. ARRIA (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): In 1990, in accordance with the request of the Provisional Government of Haiti, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/2. This resolution made it possible for the United Nations to assist in the electoral process which, on 16 September, of that year, led to the democratic election of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who obtained almost 68 per cent of the votes.

That event initiated an unprecedented stage in the history of the Haitian people, which, almost from the moment it achieved independence as a sovereign State, had been misgoverned and tyrannized by de facto regimes that were directly responsible for the impoverishment of this long-suffering and noble people which contributed so much to the cause of the freedom, independence and dignity of very many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

Seven months after President Aristide took office he was overthrown by the military coup of 30 September 1991 - at the precise moment of his return to the country after having addressed the General Assembly of this Organization. This coup d'état not only prevented the Haitians from fulfilling their aspiration to establish a democratic system, but also dashed the hopes of this people, afflicted with poverty and economic and social disequilibrium, that it would be able to reverse its country's terrible historical pattern of uncertainty and anarchy.

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

The efforts the Organization of American States has been making to resolve the Haitian political crisis and to face the long-term challenges involved in the democratic and socio-economic development of that country deserve our gratitude, but there is no doubt that they will require the full cooperation and backing of the international community.

Draft resolution A/47/L.23, which my delegation has the honour to introduce on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, seeks mainly to ensure that the States Members of our Organization reiterate their firm rejection and condemnation of the authorities which have illegally usurped the legitimate Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and, with the support of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to contribute to bringing about the restoration of democracy and constitutional government in Haiti.

Those sentiments and that decision are clearly reflected in paragraphs 5 and 6, in which the Secretary-General of our Organization is requested to take the necessary measures in order to assist in the solution of the Haitian crisis and the States Members of the United Nations are urged to renew their support for the actions undertaken by the Organization of American States to make this possible.

In this respect, the Latin American and Caribbean Group hopes to obtain the collective approval of this Assembly. To that end, we welcome the fact that other delegations have offered to join in sponsoring the draft resolution. I have been informed by the European Community that its 12 members are to be added to the list of sponsors.

There can be no doubt that the cause of the Haitian people and their right to live in freedom and democracy is a cause that all countries of the

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

Latin American and Caribbean Group share. Each and every one of our States will not cease until the land of Alexandre Petion is freed from tyranny and from those who today are flouting the will of the international community.

In due course I shall be making a separate statement in my capacity as the Permanent Representative of Venezuela.

Mr. OVALLE (Chile)(interpretation from Spanish): Recently the President of Chile, Mr. Patricio Aylwin, made the following statement in the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States: "Democracy is the only system that makes coexistence possible, with respect for diversity. It is the only system in which people can organize to defend their interests, correct abuses and promote justice. It is therefore the only system that allows us to defeat poverty and to create a stable peace among ourselves."

In Latin America, achieving democracy has cost us a great deal, but today this system of government - imperfect but unrivalled - prevails in almost all the countries of our hemisphere. Nevertheless, enemies who thrive on poverty, misery, injustice and corruption are permanently lying in wait to attack it. Hence it is necessary to strengthen and defend democracy.

The countries of the Americas have taken steps in that direction, as demonstrated by the "Santiago commitment to democracy" and the resolution on representative democracy adopted at the twenty-second General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in Bahamas last May. The resolution creates a mechanism for automatic response whenever there is an illegal interruption in the democratic process in any nation of the Organization of American States. Its implementation has demonstrated the need to improve the efficiency of our regional instruments and collective action in support of democracy.

(Mr. Ovalle, Chile)

We are aware that promoting the preservation of democracies is a complex and delicate task in a world composed of sovereign States.

Nevertheless, not only is it a legitimate task, but it is the only way in which the fundamental principle established in the Charter of our regional organization - that solidarity between States requires the effective exercise of representative democracy - acquires meaning.

In Haiti, an anomalous situation has occurred and is continuing; and the countries of the Americas wish to help in correcting it. President Jean-Bertrand Aristide - democratically elected by 67.48 per cent of the Haitian electorate in December 1990 in an electoral process whose validity was guaranteed by the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community - was overthrown in a coup d'état and forced into exile.

From the outset the Organization of American States adopted a series of resolutions and undertook numerous missions demanding respect for the Constitution and legitimate Government of Haiti, as is explained in detail in the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/47/599.

My country supports regional organizations, for the Charter of our own Organization provides for problems to be resolved, in the first instance, within the regional framework.

We believe that the Organization of American States has taken the necessary steps and consequently, we consider that this world Organization must now coordinate its work with our regional organization in whatever assistance it may require.

We consider that now more than ever before realism and steadiness are required. It is not easy to resolve complex problems such as restoring

(Mr. Ovalle, Chile)

democracy to a country. Notwithstanding setbacks and frustrations, Chile believes that the Assembly should support the actions and negotiations undertaken by the Organization of American States.

We are deeply concerned at the suffering of the Haitian people at the hands of the de facto authorities. A dictatorship is responsible for the systematic violations of human rights, and they must cease. We denounce these outrages and reiterate our solidarity with the families of the victims in this sad period in the political life of Haiti.

As a member of the Commission on Human Rights, Chile fully supported the appointment of a Special Rapporteur, having co-sponsored the draft resolution on this subject last March.

The Special Rapporteur, Mr. Marco Tulio Bruni Celli, has submitted a detailed document on the subject, upon which he has done a great deal of work. In his report he clearly sets out the main human rights violations that have occurred in Haiti, and faced with these violations the international community cannot remain indifferent.

At its extraordinary meeting on 10 November 1992, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States adopted by consensus a new resolution on the re-establishment of democracy in Haiti. In its operative paragraphs, it calls on all States Members of the United Nations to adopt measures in keeping with the resolutions of the Organization of American States. Special reference is made to the trade embargo against Haiti and to the need to increase humanitarian assistance; and it requests the cooperation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with regard to the distribution of humanitarian assistance, and requests the Organization to participate in the civilian mission of the Organization of American States to seek a way out of the crisis in Haiti.

(Mr. Ovalle, Chile)

My country expressly supports all the foregoing, and we are convinced that this session of the General Assembly should give its complete support to the actions undertaken by the Organization of American States. We urge all Member States voluntarily to join in the embargo, and we call on the Secretary-General to continue supporting the Organization of American States in any activities that organization may require of the United Nations.

(Mr. Ovalle, Chile)

For all these reasons my country strongly supports the draft resolution which the Ambassador of Venezuela has just introduced, and we hope that it will be adopted by consensus by the General Assembly.

Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia)(interpretation from Spanish): The coup d'état of 29 September 1991 against the constitutional President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was immediately vigorously condemned by the Government of Colombia, which since then has made reiterated appeals for the re-establishment of a constitutional, democratic regime in Haiti. Similarly, it has actively participated in the meetings of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), which has considered the situation in that country within the context of the principles of democracy and respect for human rights enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States.

The Organization of American States, in keeping with the provisions of its Charter and with the sovereign will of member States, began to play a central role in the peaceful settlement of the crisis in Haiti and took certain initiatives aimed at restoring the legitimate Government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and for that reason the Colombian Government has given its complete support to the resolutions adopted by the Organization of American States.

Allow me to take this opportunity once again to urge States Members of the United Nations to cooperate with the Organization of American States by adopting whatever measures are necessary to implement its resolutions, in particular resolutions MRE/RES.1/91, MRE/RES.2/91, MRE/RES.3/92 and CP/RES 594 (923/92).

(Mr. Jaramillo, Colombia)

A little more than a year ago we unanimously adopted resolution 46/7 on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti and resolution 46/138 on human rights in Haiti, thereby highlighting the Organization's commitment to the strengthening of democracy and human rights in Haiti.

A new era of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements has begun. The implementation of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter has taken concrete form in a broad range of activities carried out in a complementary fashion by the United Nations, including effective coordination between the United Nations Secretary-General and the leaders of regional organizations. The item entitled "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti" is an example of this cooperation and also gives an opportunity to promote the machinery for the peaceful settlement of disputes in our region.

We have before us the report (A/47/599) of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti. It deals with a tragic economic and humanitarian situation. This forum must give the Organization of American States the support it needs in its mediation efforts to resolve this crisis. At the same time we must maintain our commitment to deal with the long-term challenges of the socio-economic and democratic development of the region.

Draft resolution A/47/L.23 reiterates the United Nations commitment to democratic principles and renews our solidarity with the Haitian people. Here I stress operative paragraphs 6 and 7, in which States Members of the United Nations and international organizations are encouraged to increase humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people and the United Nations

(Mr. Jaramillo, Colombia)

Secretary-General is encouraged to continue his cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in distributing this assistance.

Because of the gravity of the situation, the eight United Nations aid agencies in Haiti have set up an inter-agency committee under the direction of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to begin work on an integrated plan of humanitarian action. The OAS has established a coordinating committee for humanitarian assistance to Haiti. We are confident that the two Organizations will continue to find ways to cooperate in this crucial area to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people.

Colombia has always supported the sending of high-level missions under the auspices of regional organizations. We are confident that the civilian mission of the OAS will be able to promote respect for human rights, and in particular will improve the possibility of channelling humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people, to whom we reiterate our country's solidarity and support.

Mr. CHIARADIA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Argentina is speaking on the item entitled "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti" as a sponsor of the draft resolution introduced by Venezuela, Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, and to reiterate its support for the just, democratic aspirations of the Haitian people.

After a long process culminating in December 1990, the people of Haiti elected their legitimate leaders in elections which were assisted by this Organization. For this reason the United Nations has special responsibility

(Mr. Chiaradia, Argentina)

in this area, a responsibility it has borne since the adoption of resolution 45/2 on special electoral assistance to Haiti.

On that occasion the United Nations tried to help the Haitian people to consolidate democratic institutions in potential situations of destabilization. Less than a year later the process that had begun was abruptly interrupted, and the right of the people to choose their own destiny was violated, but the international community still wants to promote peace and justice in Haiti.

The refusal of those now in power in Haiti to heed the international appeal, clearly expressed in resolution 46/7, to restore the legitimate Government, fully to implement the National Constitution and to respect human rights is a continuing act of defiance of our collective aspirations.

(Mr. Chiaradía, Argentina)

The Government of Argentina believes that non-recognition by Member States of the United Nations of the regime established in Port au Prince and renewal of the commitment to adopt measures in line with the decisions of the Organization of American States (OAS) will help to restore Haiti's legitimate authorities and prevent a worsening of violations of human rights in that country. Once again, the undeniable equation "democracy-human rights" is completely relevant.

The delegation of Argentina is in favour of the concrete implementation of these measures as an expression of the international community's commitment to the promotion of respect for the right of the Haitian people to live under a democratic regime.

The delegation of Argentina wishes to highlight most specifically the action taken by the Organization of American States, within the framework of its competence, to deal with the situation from the very moment of the constitutional breakdown - that is, the adoption by the OAS Permanent Council of resolution CP/RES 567. In this context, we note in particular OAS resolution GA/RES.1080, on the establishment of machinery to protect democracy and the legal order in States members of the regional organization.

In this connection we express our satisfaction at the high degree of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States and our confidence that the same degree of cooperation and coordination will be in evidence whenever it is found necessary within the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter.

The Argentine Republic is committed to the ideals of freedom and respect for human rights under the protection of democratic institutions. There has been auspicious movement in that direction in our region. The constitutional

(Mr. Chiaradía, Argentina)

breakdown in Haiti is not only a step backward: it is an anachronism whose very genesis makes it impossible that it can endure.

The Argentine Republic is committed to exerting every effort to ensure that the interrupted constitutional order is speedily restored in Haiti and that the people of that country will soon be able to enjoy the full exercise of their sovereign rights.

Mr. EVANS (United Kingdom): I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

Just over a year ago the European Community and its member States expressed strong support in the General Assembly for the restoration of the legitimate Government in Haiti. It is a matter of deep concern that one year on the Assembly is required again to discuss the serious situation in Haiti and to adopt another resolution to deplore the continued disruption of the democratic process.

The European Community and its member States unreservedly condemned the military coup of 30 September 1991 in Haiti, and they deplore the continuing disruption of the democratic process. They call for the immediate return to the rule of law and the restoration of legitimate government to that country. They reiterate their view that Haitian society should be based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and the promotion of human justice and economic progress.

The General Assembly will recall that following the coup the European Community and its member States immediately suspended their economic assistance, with the exception of programmes for humanitarian relief. The European Community and its member States wish to make clear that they will resume cooperation with Haiti only when the democratic system is restored.

(Mr. Evans, United Kingdom)

The European Community and its member States strongly condemn continuing flagrant abuses of human rights in Haiti. They recall that at the forty-sixth session the General Assembly unanimously condemned such abuses in its resolution 46/138 of 17 December 1991 and that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1992/77, also expressed its deep concern. They are also seriously concerned at the deterioration of living conditions and the persistence of repression, which are forcing the Haitian population to seek refuge outside the borders of their own country.

The European Community and its member States strongly support the efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) to find a solution to this crisis. It is important that the United Nations provide appropriate support for these efforts. In this context the European Community and its member States welcomed the participation of the United Nations in the mission of the OAS Secretary-General to Haiti from 18 to 21 August. They call on all Haitian parties to resume the search for a political settlement, and they support, in this context, the role of the OAS Secretary-General's special representative in contributing to the restoration of the democratically elected authorities.

The United Nations has played a major role in the strengthening of democracy in Haiti, in particular through the provision of electoral observers and advisers under the terms of General Assembly resolution 45/2. It should retain, as a result, a special commitment to the restoration of democracy in Haiti. The unanimous adoption of the draft resolution before us will send to those concerned a clear signal that the international community does not accept the results of the use of force. The European Community and its member States are therefore pleased to support the draft resolution before us.

Mr. MOTHIBAMELE (Botswana): Last year, after the forceful take-over of power by the military in Haiti, Botswana joined the world community in condemning the coup d'état. It was the ardent hope of the delegation of Botswana that the situation would not be allowed to continue. It is now more than a year later, and the reports on the status of democracy and human rights are appalling.

The coup d'état in Haiti was condemned by the Assembly in resolution 46/7 of 11 October 1991. By then the Organization of American States (OAS) had taken steps to condemn the coup d'état and had demanded the reinstatement of President Aristide as the legitimate and democratically elected President of Haiti. It had also imposed economic and diplomatic sanctions against the junta, a punitive measure that Botswana supported.

For more than a year now both President Aristide and the world community have been negotiating with the junta. From the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/47/599 it is very clear that President Aristide has made many concessions for the sake of his country and his people. The report details the disturbing situation with regard to human rights abuses. We are told that they include extra-judicial executions, severe ill treatment amounting to torture and arbitrary and illegal arrest, and the harassment of every person who seems opposed to the regime. The situation is disturbing and must be condemned.

(Mr. Mothibamele, Botswana)

In addressing the Assembly immediately after the coup d'état last year, I stated that as a democratic and peace-loving country Botswana was saddened by the events that had taken place. My delegation therefore appreciates the efforts of the Organization of American States and the United Nations to settle this situation.

My delegation joins other delegations in condemning the army officers' continued hold on power. President Aristide, the consitutionally elected President of Haiti, must be allowed to go back to Haiti and assume the office to which he was democratically elected.

Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana): It has been aptly said that the world has entered the age of paradox. Certainly, recent events in international relations appear to confirm that observation, for while East-West tensions have now abated civil strife continues to rage in some places around the world. While democracy is once again in the ascendant, the popular will in certain countries remains prey to dictatorship and totalitarianism. As a result, human rights are trampled underfoot, and international peace and security are threatened by grave uncertainty.

It must be the supreme paradox, however, that Haiti, a nation which some 200 years ago struck the first blow for freedom in this hemisphere, should today find itself under the heel of a new dictatorship. The names of Toussaint L'Ouverture, Dessalines and Henri Christophe are for ever engraved in the national pantheon of heroes who fought successfully to overthrow slavery and bring freedom to their people. Their struggle for independence was not limited, however, to their native Haiti, but extended to the wider region of Latin America and the Caribbean. This contribution to hemispheric unity was recognized by none other than the great Libertador, Simón Bolívar.

(Mr. Insanally, Guyana)

This proud legacy has since, however, been shamelessly vitiated by a series of selfish tyrants who were hardly concerned with history and were interested only in their own personal aggrandizement. Yet, as the writer Janvier exclaimed in a cri de coeur found in his book significantly entitled Haiti aux Haitiens:

"The earth of Haiti was not conquered and developed by our ancestors in order that we should now make a gift of it to future oppressors."

All the world rejoiced when, after almost two centuries of political, economic and social travail, the Haitian people were allowed to exercise their franchise and thus to savour democracy. Their triumph, however, was regrettably short-lived. After less than eight months in office the duly elected President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was forcibly removed on 30 September 1991. To its credit, this Assembly moved swiftly to condemn this departure from constitutional Government and to call for the prompt restoration of democracy in Haiti.

The States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at the United Nations and Suriname - I have the honour to speak for them today - were among those in the Assembly that urged the international community to deny the usurpers of power any consolidation of their illegal regime. We did so because of our region's profound respect for the principle of representative democracy and our fraternal ties with the Haitian people. Because of our geographical proximity and long historical association, the Caribbean countries and Haiti have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations. Haiti has observer status within CARICOM and is involved in many areas of regional cooperation. We have therefore followed developments in the Haitian situation with keen interest and are understandably anxious that they should

(Mr. Insanally, Guyana)

not import dangerous instability into our midst. The Caribbean, consisting as it does of small and vulnerable States, is highly susceptible to all forms of external threat.

In an attempt to assist Haiti at this crucial time, CARICOM Heads of Government have taken a number of diplomatic initiatives to encourage its progress towards democratic government. Our countries gave full support to the electoral process which culminated in the election of President Aristide. We dispatched several missions charged with observing the human-rights situation in Haiti and providing its population with necessary humanitarian assistance. A special CARICOM Committee, made up of the Foreign Ministers of the Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago was created to monitor events in Haiti and coordinate our overall efforts. The former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Mr. Michael Manley, has been appointed a special representative to help find a way forward. Sad to say, these initiatives and, indeed, those of the wider international community have not yet produced the desired results. One year later very little has changed in Haiti; indeed, much has become worse.

Undaunted by this lack of progress, our Heads of Government, at a meeting in Trinidad and Tobago just two months ago, called for a new démarche to resolve fully the Haitian crisis. Acting on their mandate, CARICOM delegations, both here at the United Nations and at the Organization of American States (OAS) have sought to galvanize the international community into taking more determined steps to end the current impasse. Along with other concerned States in the hemisphere, we have been instrumental in promoting draft resolution A/47/L.23, which was today introduced to the Assembly by the Ambassador of Venezuela in his capacity as Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group of States.

(Mr. Insanally, Guyana)

This latest initiative seeks, in essence, to reinforce the resolution recently adopted by consensus by the Organization of American States. Its principal aim is to enable the Secretary-General of the United Nations to have the leeway to act and to take necessary measures in cooperation with the OAS to find an urgent solution to the problems of Haiti. We hope that it will impel Members of the Organization to renew their efforts to strengthen representative democracy, constitutional order and all relevant institutions in that troubled country. Very importantly, we expect it to lead to the strengthening and widening of the trade embargo and, in particular, to an end to the supply of arms, ammunition and petroleum to the illegal regime. The Caribbean Community believes that the combination of measures called for in the draft resolution, if rigorously applied, can serve to weaken the control the unlawful authorities in Haiti now exercise over the suffering population.

At the same time, the continuing exodus of the dictatorship's victims in search of refuge abroad requires the provision of increased humanitarian assistance. It is unconscionable to deny these hapless human beings the relief they so desperately seek. The sight of so many anguished men, women and children - the so-called boat people - clinging precariously to fragile vessels in the hope of finding safe haven must surely move the conscience of the world. The relevant agencies of the United Nations system should multiply their efforts to render all necessary assistance to those who are caught up in this growing human tragedy. The international community must also act to alleviate the burden this ceaseless outflow of refugees places on small neighbouring States which, because of their own limited resources, are ill-equipped to deal with the enormity of the problem.

(Mr. Insanally, Guyana)

It is also a distressing fact, confirmed by the many reports dealing with the human-rights situation in Haiti, that those remaining in that country continue to be subject to severe abuse at the hands of the brutal regime. Extrajudicial execution, torture, arbitrary arrest and many forms of harassment and intimidation are the order of the day. Visiting missions have consistently testified to increasing deterioration in social conditions.

Addressing this Assembly only weeks ago, President Aristide described the action of the military as

"a crime against humankind" (A/47/PV.17, p. 6)

and called the world's attention to his country, where

"blood is flowing, corpses are piling up and repression is intensifying" (ibid.)

While the privileged few in Haiti live in luxury, the masses are forced even further into the backwaters of abject poverty. The restoration of democracy is the only hope of salvation for Haiti and its people. The international community therefore has an obligation to force the de facto authorities to respect their country's constitution.

In recognition of Haiti's proud history as a free and independent Republic, we the United Nations can do no less than work for that country's restoration to its rightful place in the family of democratic nations. We owe it not only to the Haitian people but to ourselves to remove this blot on the region's democratic record, for, as one writer has observed,

"By a divine paradox, where there is one slave, there are two. So in the wonderful reciprocities of being, we can never reach the higher level until all our fellows ascend with us. There is no true liberty for the individual except as he finds it in the security of all."

(Mr. Insanally, Guyana)

Mindful of this truism, therefore, let us proceed to the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution that is before the Assembly and, thereby, give the people of Haiti an opportunity to breathe the fresh air of freedom once again.

Mrs. FRECHETTE (Canada) (interpretation from French): On 11 October 1991, in this Hall, Mrs. Barbara McDougall, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, described the Haitian coup d'état as

> "an anachronistic event and a perfectly cynical exercise" (A/46/PV.31, p. 21)

She affirmed the necessity of applying international pressure in the form of measures to bring Haiti back into the circle of democratic countries.

One year later the Canadian Government's interest in the Haitian cause remains strong. While on a visit to Venezuela last June the Prime Minister of Canada affirmed our refusal to accept the overthrow of a democratically elected leader in this hemisphere and our readiness to cooperate with our friends and partners to find a way of returning President Aristide to power in Haiti.

Today the Haitian people are still subject to the vagaries of a military junta that a pseudo-civilian Government is trying to conceal from the world. The de facto Government of Haiti has no legal basis whatsoever, and it depends solely on armed force to remain in power. Over the past 12 months the Canadian Government has supported all the efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) and its Secretary-General to promote dialogue between the two parties - the party that has used force, and the one that has legitimacy. We deplore the tactics of the de facto Government to delay talks and the signature of agreements, which, once signed, it circumvents as in the case of the Washington Accord.

(Mrs. Frechette, Canada)

On 30 September 1991 the country was taken over by a repressive regime. Any show of support for the overthrown President, for constitutional legitimacy, or any hint of opposition continue to be brutally crushed by the de facto regime. Almost every day we receive reports of intimidation, incarcerations and the outright murder of those who would oppose or merely raise a voice of protest. Particularly fierce has been the repression of the media. Nearly all private sources of information, and especially radio stations - the only means whereby the whole population could be reached - have been eliminated.

Since the coup d'état took place Canada has been doing everything it can to give effect to the resolutions of the OAS and the United Nations. Our objective has been to let those who have seized power understand the world-wide revulsion created by their actions. The international community refuses to countenance the destruction of Haiti's fledgling democracy. The military power in Port-au-Prince, and those who are supporting it, are very much aware of this universal rejection and would like to see it come to an end, whatever they might say.

They would also like to see the economic and trade embargo lifted and our aid programmes resumed. The time for this has not come - far from it. Aware of the fact that the measures unanimously adopted by the OAS member countries can be only partly effective, the Canadian Government would like to see all United Nations Member States adopt the same measures, especially with respect to the trade in arms, oil and other material that might be used for repressive purposes.

Last August the Secretary-General of the OAS travelled to Haiti to meet the protagonists. This was encouraging to Canada, since the mission gave the

(Mrs. Frechette, Canada)

parties involved, and especially the de facto regime, an opportunity to resume the essential process of dialogue and interchange that alone can end the distrust and fear between the two parties. The OAS Secretary-General's mission opened the way for a subsequent mission by a group of 18 civilian observers, concerning which we the States Members of the OAS have great expectations. The supporters of the de facto Government would do well to realize that they now have an opportunity to find a way out of the present impasse.

Canada welcomes the cooperation between the United Nations and the OAS in this matter. The United Nations sent a representative to the August mission of the OAS Secretary-General. A productive dialogue has ensued between the two Organizations to coordinate the humanitarian-aid programmes for the poor of Haiti. This cooperation must be increased.

On 10 November the Permanent Council of the OAS adopted a new resolution that invited the United Nations to participate in its civilian mission to Haiti. It also asked its Secretary-General to seek the assistance of the United Nations and its Secretary-General in order that particular attention might be paid to the reinforcement of the commercial embargo against Haiti, especially with regard to petroleum products and arms. I can hardly emphasize enough the importance that the Government of Canada attaches to this question. I strongly encourage all the States Members of the United Nations to join us to strengthen the international measures likely to assist democracy and restore legitimacy in Haiti. So far as Canada is concerned, we think that the Security Council should not hesitate to seize itself of the issue of Haiti.

(spoke in English)

(Mrs. Frechette, Canada)

Canada fully realizes that the misery of Haiti was a subject of concern even before the coup d'état. The situation has simply worsened over the past year. With the OAS and with other donor countries, Canada will seek ways of providing humanitarian aid to the people of Haiti by way of multilateral and non-governmental organizations. Our hope is to alleviate the suffering, to prevent even greater tragedies from occurring and to show our solidarity with the people of Haiti in order that they might not feel abandoned by the international community.

Canada does not intend, however, to do anything that would enable the de facto Government to prolong its life or to suggest that we might be prepared to forget the whole thing and treat it as a fait accompli.

(Mrs. Frechette, Canada)

Bringing Haiti back into the circle of democratic countries is an act of justice. It is also one that will reinforce democracy in this hemisphere. The reason why Canada ascribes such importance to this matter is that it typifies what is meant by progress and security in the region.

For all these reasons, Canada is today co-sponsoring this new draft resolution which, on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves, calls for the international community to cooperate towards making the de facto Government and its supporters understand that their only reasonable course of action is to seek with us, through the intermediary of the OAS, the United Nations and other organizations, if necessary, political solutions that will restore legitimate authority and establish the climate of confidence that alone will enable Haiti to emerge from its nightmare.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): Over the last years, the international community has witnessed the emergence of new forms of cooperation to replace traditional patterns of confrontation. With the end of ideological rivalries, democratic trends are advancing in many parts of the world.

Yet, the situation in Haiti has demonstrated that challenges to our common goal - the prosperity and stability of all nations - still remain. The present crisis places in jeopardy the democratic institutions and social harmony of a country to which Brazil and the international community as a whole had already demonstrated their support at the time of the normalization of its political life.

The disruption of the democratic process in Haiti calls for concerted international action to restore the legitimate Government of the President elected by the will of the Haitian people. As the present picture does not allow us to describe this situation as a threat to the peace and security of

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

our region, the situation in Haiti is essentially of an internal nature. The most important forum to deal directly with it is the Organization of American States (OAS). The OAS has its own mechanisms and methods of settling conflicts which are inscribed in its Charter. In fact, the OAS Charter contains several references in support of democratic institutions, in particular articles 2 and 3.

The coup d'état against the legitimate Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide received immediate and strong condemnation by the States Members of our regional organization. On the day of the coup, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States adopted a resolution whereby the Council condemned the coup d'état and called for the reinstatement of the constitutional Government. Brazil supports all resolutions adopted both by the United Nations and by the OAS with a view to re-establishing the legitimate authorities in Haiti.

Since the eruption of the crisis, the United Nations has been engaging in constructive cooperation with the OAS. In fact, the resolution adopted by the General Assembly last year demonstrates the commitment of the membership at large of the United Nations to condemn the breakdown of the democratic regime in Haiti, in accordance with resolutions approved at the regional level. Resolution 46/7 affirmed as unacceptable any entity resulting from the overthrow of the legitimate Government of President Aristide. On that occasion, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General of the OAS in implementing the mandates arising from the relevant resolutions of the OAS.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

Recently, the Permanent Council of the OAS approved a resolution in which it urged the States Members of the United Nations, through the Secretary-General, to renew their support within the framework of the United Nations Charter and international law, especially as these relate to the strengthening of representative democracy, the constitutional order, the adequate functioning of Haitian institutions, and the embargo on trade with Haiti. The draft resolution that we have before us - a draft to which Brazil fully subscribes - endorses what the Governments of the hemisphere have already agreed upon at the regional level.

In addition, United Nations officials have been participating in OAS missions aiming at reaching our ultimate goal: a peaceful solution to the grave situation in Haiti. Indeed, the presence of representatives of the United Nations among the OAS missions reinforces the cooperation needed to restore democracy in Haiti.

Brazil considers as a matter of high priority the solution to the present crisis which affects Haiti. In this connection, since the OAS and the United Nations began in 1991 to consider initiatives aiming at restoring the legitimate Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the Brazilian Government has adopted the necessary measures in order to comply with the decisions taken during the ad hoc meetings of the Ministers for external relations of the regional organization. In particular, a Presidential Decree signed on 22 June 1992 gave legal effect to the measures adopted. The Decree determines that the Brazilian authorities are obliged to comply, within their respective competences, with the provisions of the relevant resolutions adopted by these ad hoc meetings of Ministers.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

The suffering of the Haitian people is still going on. The persistence of human rights violations, the suspension of civil and political liberties, and the economic and social deterioration of Haiti deserve the utmost attention of the international community. Democracy shall prevail over force. We must continue our efforts to bring hope where despair and agony subsist.

Mr. ARRIA (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): The constitutional President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, stated recently in his address in the General Assembly that 500 years earlier his ancestors had preferred to throw themselves into the sea rather than remain as slaves in the Americas, and that 500 years later, their descendants, the Haitians, are once again turning to the dangers of the sea given the situation in their country which is even more threatening and more dangerous than ever. That is the terrible reality experienced today by the Haitian people, whose very origins were a reflection of the most extreme form of violation of human rights: slavery.

Where does the international community today stand on the subject of Haiti? Fourteen months after the coup d'état, that country is still being vandalized and abused by a despotic regime which also tries to scoff at the international community. The situation continues the same as described in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Marco Tulio Bruni Celli. The situation of human rights has worsened considerably during 1992. People have disappeared and been killed; there has been preventive repression, arbitrary detention, persecution and torture. The Special Rapporteur of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other non-governmental organizations have all received innumerable complaints

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

documenting these abominable deeds. This terrifying reality is happening in this hemisphere, just three hours away from New York and Washington. The victims are Haitians who are requesting only the right to live with dignity and in democracy.

In Haiti today, more than ever before, the judicial power is totally dependent on the armed forces and is more corrupt than ever. There are no judicial guarantees of any kind, and judges are appointed whimsically. People are detained and sentenced without due process of law. There is no trust in lawyers or the courts. The freedom of individuals is at the mercy of the security units in the armed forces and the police. The citizens are totally defenceless in the face of the agents of the State. In Haiti, it is impossible to distinguish clearly between those who are trying to leave the country for economic reasons and those who are trying to do so for political considerations.

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

The measures adopted in the resolution of the Organization of American States on the weapons embargo are not enough, and the provisions of the embargo are violated openly. No country recognizes the Haitian authorities, who continue to be universally condemned and repudiated.

What will happen in Haiti if we allow everything to continue unchanged? The authorities will continue to martyr the people and exploit them, especially the poorest. The violations of the human rights of the Haitian people will continue, and they will be subjected to prolonged suffering, which will encourage them to use desperate means, such as becoming boat people.

What does the international community want? A return to constitutionality - we are convinced that that is the only way to bring about peace and security in Haiti; the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the legitimate Head of State of that country; the resumption of reconstruction and national reunification; the normalization of free and independent political activities.

What can we do? A great deal. The mandate this General Assembly gives the Secretary-General will enable him to recommend that the Security Council adopt measures that will in fact make possible and guarantee a universal embargo on Haiti. We believe that in all probability this is the only way to help liberate Haiti.

My delegation is well aware of the concerns of some States with regard to the possible inclusion of the subject of Haiti in the work of the Security Council. Those concerns are legitimate, but we believe that the aspirations of the Haitian people are much more legitimate. They do not want to be abandoned by the international community in their tragedy. We must do our utmost to put an end to that tragedy.

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

We must not be mistaken. The tragedy in Haiti is a potential threat to regional and international peace and security. One need only imagine what would happen if there were an increase in the number of impoverished Haitians leaving Haiti for other countries - an increase of hundreds of thousands. The tragedy would then no longer be confined to Haitian territory. It is already overflowing that country's borders.

International reaction to this tragedy will require collective decisions by our countries, especially those that are members of the Security Council.

The draft resolution the Latin American and Caribbean countries have submitted to the General Assembly for consideration is primarily intended to express our repudiation of the situation in Haiti. That repudiation is universal. Efforts to reverse the situation will not cease, not in the American Hemisphere nor - from now on, we trust - in the entire Organization.

We already have a great deal of information showing that the United Nations has a humanitarian, political, moral and economic obligation to act, and act strongly and with determination. It is not a question of accommodating anyone, or broadly interpreting the Charter, or justifying in any way the paralysis that exists in Haiti. It is not a question of interfering in internal affairs: the legitimate constitutional Government of Haiti presided over by Jean-Bertrand Aristide has called upon us to act. Thus our Secretary-General has a very clear mandate to consider the situation independently. He has a mandate to cooperate in due course with the Organization of American States, and its Secretary-General in particular, and an obligation to take any initiative he deems necessary within his competence to resolve the crisis in Haiti.

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

The Charter of the United Nations gives the Secretary-General a number of options. We are confident that they are all valid for the speedy resolution of the crisis, and we hope they will be put into effect very soon.

We should like to state our country's position in this regard. It is in line with the position of a large group of Member States of this Organization. Our position is that the situation in Haiti is a threat to international peace and security, especially in the Caribbean Basin, the region to which Venezuela belongs.

In conclusion, I would remind the Assembly of a central chapter in the history of my country. Simon Bolivar, the liberator, liberated the slaves in 1813. On 8 February 1816 he wrote to President Alexandre Petion of Haiti, and he said,

> "In my proclamation to the people of Venezuela, in my decrees to liberate the slaves, I do not know, Your Excellency, whether I would be allowed to express the feelings I have in my heart regarding you, and whether I would be allowed to leave for posterity a monument to your great generosity. I do not know whether I should declare you the author of our freedom and our protector."

That tribute of the liberator Simon Bolivar to Petion of Haiti is not only a memory for Venezuelans; it is a commitment to Haiti, to its people's cause, which the Government and people of our country recall very clearly in the unfortunate circumstances the Assembly now has under consideration.

Mr. AROSEMENA A. (Panama) (interpretation from Spanish): I shall be brief not because the shameful record of the de facto regime governing Haiti does not deserve a thorough debate in this forum but out of respect for those who will be speaking after me.

(Mr. Arosemena A., Panama)

Let no one doubt that Haiti's fate is not just cruel destiny but a harbinger of things to come. What has happened there will inevitably occur throughout the length and breadth of our continent. For that reason the situation of that Caribbean country is a source of constant concern to my Government.

Right from the start we suspended diplomatic relations with that wayward regime and recalled our representative. When the Organization of American States took action, we supported the sanctions decreed by the Council of that regional organization. The price for Panama, which is a centre for services and trade, has been very high. Though we are paying the price gladly, we must say that the efforts of our regional organization to establish a cordon sanitaire around the island has not met with a suitable favourable response elsewhere in the world. We think this debate will serve to strengthen measures to isolate the Haitian regime, but we must always bear in mind the humanitarian needs of that long-suffering people.

But Panama has rejected this change of regime not just out of legal obligation. First, we have made it part of our foreign policy not to recognize regimes that do not spring from expression of the popular will. This doctrine, which in international law has been called the Bethancourt doctrine, after the distinguished Venezuelan statesman who conceived it, expresses our desire to ensure that in the future other peoples will not suffer an experience similar to ours.

(Mr. Arosemena, Panama)

We have deep-rooted ties with Haiti by reason of our common history and culture. The first decades of the nineteenth century had more than their fair share of heroes of human history. The world was, as children might say, a real land of giants. At the nadir of his career, Simon Bolivar arrived in Haiti. He was welcomed, helped, reinforced, armed and sent out once more to tilt at the windmills of his time. The rest of this tale is something all Latin Americans learn in primary school, and we remember it every time we walk through the squares of our cities. Haiti took in a leader, and Haiti gave us back a liberator. That is why Petion will always be a heroic figure in the America of Bolivar.

The fate of Haiti is of deep concern to Panama as a country and as a democracy. We are convinced that in future Haiti will have better days. The restoration of the deposed Government is, without a doubt, the first step in that direction. We believe that the day is at hand when Haiti and its people will be free.

For all those reasons, we support draft resolution A/47/L.23, now before us, on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.

Mr. LADSOUS (France) (interpretation from French): First of all, I should like to associate my delegation with the comments made by the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Community.

More than a year after the bloody coup d'état that forced the legitimate President of Haiti, Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, into exile, the situation in that country remains extremely grave: the Haitian people, which, for the first time in its history had had the opportunity to choose its leaders freely in fair, democratic elections, is still deprived of its victory. It is,

(Mr. Ladsous, France)

furthermore, the victim of massive human rights violations by those who are exercising de facto power in Haiti.

The French Government strongly condemns these violations, just as it continues to condemn the repression against the Haitian people by the de facto authorities. It reaffirms the overriding importance it attaches to the speedy restoration of legality in Haiti and to the return of President Aristide.

Since the beginning of the crisis, major efforts have been made by the international community, in particular the Organization of American States (OAS), towards the attainment of that goal. France supports those efforts; in fact France immediately took a large number of steps in line with the decisions taken by the OAS, and in Haiti we are engaged in cooperation whose sole aim is to provide humanitarian assistance to the most disadvantaged persons.

We believe that international action to uphold law and democracy must be pursued and intensified. A continuation of the present situation is simply not to be tolerated, because of the suffering it inflicts on Haitians and, equally, because of the adverse impact it cannot fail to have on stability in the region.

France considers that the United Nations, which has been closely associated with the democratic process in Haiti, has a role to play in the efforts under way to reinstate the country's legitimate authorities. We therefore welcome the participation of a representative of the Secretary-General in the mission, led by the Secretary-General of the OAS, that visited Haiti in August. France hopes that this kind of cooperation between the two organizations will be strengthened with a view to resolving the Haitian crisis. We hope that all initiatives likely to contribute to

(Mr. Ladsous, France)

attaining that goal will be considered, including the possibility of action by the Security Council, if the legitimate Government of Haiti and the countries in the region so wish, to support the action taken by the OAS.

Of course, the international community's efforts cannot by themselves put an end to the situation in Haiti. This is primarily up to the Haitians, and in particular those capable of influencing the course of events there in order to allow the higher interest of their country to prevail over individual interests. Those who today are exercising de facto power must realize that maintaining the status quo will cause Haiti to sink ever deeper with each passing day. That is why we hope that the desire for dialogue will prevail, so that a speedy solution can be found to break the deadlock.

France will in any event continue to reject the result of the use of force, which flouts the will of the people of Haiti. France hopes that that approach will be reaffirmed by the entire international community during the General Assembly's consideration of the situation in Haiti.

Mr. SABALAT (Haiti) (interpretation from French): The delegation of Haiti extends its condolences to the Government and the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the sad loss of their President, His Excellency Mr. Kaysone Phomvihan. Our sincere condolences go the bereaved family of the President in their time of trial.

My delegation was greatly moved by the damage caused by the intemperate weather in the United States, and we extend our sympathy to the Government and the people of this country.

More than a year ago the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 46/7 of 11 October 1991, which unequivocally condemned the bloody coup d'état

(Mr. Sabalat, Haiti)

of 30 September 1991 and demanded the restoration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide together with the full application of the 1987 Constitution. This was only right, since the birth of democracy in Haiti through the election of the constitutional Government of 7 February 1991 came about under the close observation and with the unreserved support of the United Nations.

I should therefore like, once again, on behalf of the constitutional Government of Haiti and of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to express the profound gratitude of the Haitian people for this very generous contribution by all the nations of the world to the political development of our society. Unfortunately, seven months later, the soaring hopes for democracy that the elections had raised in the hearts of the Haitian people were violently dashed by the murderous coup d'état of 29 September 1991.

The adoption of the present draft resolution has the specific purpose of enabling this majestic design for the flowering of freedom to be safeguarded in the face of the human rights tragedy being visited upon Haiti by the military. More than 3,000 citizens have been assassinated; 40,000 others have tried to escape the terror by seeking refuge in friendly countries; 300,000 people have been forced to abandon their homes to avoid the reprisals and the illegal demands of every sort with which they are being threatened. This, briefly, is the apocalyptic scenario that the army has brought about in Haiti since the coup d'état.

(Mr. Sabalat, Haiti)

I shall spare the Assembly the details of the systematic use of terror in the socio-political scene in Haiti. The Assembly regularly receives many detailed reports from human rights organizations, including the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International, Americas Watch, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and the Platform for Human Rights in Haiti.

On the initiative of the constitutional Government of Haiti, a workshop was held in this very building last week. It was attended by organizations and movements that are heroically struggling to defend human rights in Haiti as well as several other international associations that work to defend human rights.

In addtion to the untold suffering of the Haitian people caused by the intrigues of the ringleaders of the coup, those same ringleaders are seeking to wipe out the international community's generous, patient investment that has sought to assist and nurture the Haitian people in its quest for justice and freedom. The presence of a de facto power in Port au Prince is also an act of aggression, an intolerable act of defiance against the peoples and institutions that have been working for justice, tolerance and peace. It is an act of aggression against the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the European Economic Community (EEC) and all the other organizations that were present at the baptism of democracy in Haiti on 16 December 1990. The international community understood what was at stake and its reaction was swift. Fourteen months later, it continues to be express resolutely by its response its desire for a return to democracy and the reinstatement of President Aristide in his legitimate authority.

(Mr. Sabalat, Haiti)

We are therefore convinced that new trends have clearly emerged on the world scene to promote and defend values of justice and freedom. Discussion of human rights must be a necessary reference point at the heart of the new international relations as well as a faithful companion of any democratic plan. The constitutional Government of Haiti will continue to express its own faithfulness to those principles, which represent the main ideological pillar of the new world order.

The delegation of Haiti, which I have the honour to lead today, wishes to share with other delegations the concerns of the constitutional Government of Haiti regarding the disastrous effects of the reign of terror in our country. The situation is fraught with unpredictable consequences and is likely to cause irreparable harm to other countries in the region. I should like to take the liberty of mentioning, inter alia, the alarming situation caused by the boat people. The combination of oppression and pauperization have the potential to cause a Haitian exodus on an incalculable scale. If forecasts in the press prove to be true - 200,000 to 300,000 refugees by March 1993 - the pressure might be so great as to affect the structures of countries in the region exposed, through no fault of their own, to an uninterrupted flow of compatriots of mine trying to escape terror. We are aware that some of these countries are not necessarily able, despite their goodwill, to absorb even part of those involved in Haitian exodus seeking refuge in their territories.

After 14 months, the worsening situation in Haiti, is a potential threat to the entire region. The absolute lack of standards in public institutions means that administratively our country is going downhill, exposed to political pollution extending far beyond our national borders. The slightest

(Mr. Sabalat, Haiti)

epidemic affecting humans or animals in Haiti might, due to the collapse of the administrative machinery, spread in a deadly manner to neighbouring countries.

The return of democracy is more urgently necessary than ever before, because there is no viable solution, not even a possible solution, to the crushing problems I have mentioned unless President Aristide is restored to legitimate power in Haiti.

We congratulate the Secretary-General on his report (A/47/599 and Corr.1 and Add.1) on "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti", which details the efforts made by the international community to resolve the Haitian crisis.

Unfortunately, despite the adoption of numerous resolutions and decisions and despite the many initiatives of the OAS - to whose Secretary-General, Mr. Baena Soares, we are grateful - the state of law has not been re-established in Haiti. The embargo which was to have put pressure on the organizers of the coup has not been respected. The continuation trade in prohibited petroleum products, oil products and the traffic in military equipment has led to a marked increase in the destructive capacity and the repressive of the Haitian military. This is an extremely difficult situation for the Haitian people and the constitutional Government to bear, frankly, it is intolerable.

We are therefore absolutely convinced of the need to extend inter-State cooperation beyond the inter-American regional context, in order to strengthen and make more effective the embargo measures, particularly those relating to arms trafficking and the trade in oil and petroleum products.

(Mr. Sabalat, Haiti)

We are also absolutely convinced that if the international community refrains from providing material for the use of the armed forces or the police in Haiti, particularly weapons, munitions and oil, the small clique that usurped power in Haiti will no longer be able to defy the Haitian people or the international community. Because of our unswerving devotion to justice and liberty, the Haitian people are prepared to make this additional sacrifice as the price of ensuring respect for its sovereign will.

Furthermore, the Government of Haiti strongly encourages the international community to provide increased humanitarian assistance to the poorest sectors of our population.

The 14 months of violence and terror imposed by the military in Haiti have not affected the democratic ideals of the Haitian people embodied by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. It would therefore be an illusion, perhaps a dangerous illusion, to try to stabilize the socio-political situation in Haiti simply by ignoring the people's will, which was clearly, democratically and in full sovereignty expressed during the elections of 16 December 1990, which were held with the assistance of, and under the supervision of, the United Nations, the OAS, CARICOM and the EEC.

That is why we have spoken forcefully in urging all delegations to be generous once again in their support for the noble democratic quest of the people of Haiti by voting in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. VILLEGAS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The Government of Mexico shares the international community's concern over the current situation in Haiti. Little over a year ago, the constitutional order of that country fell victim to internal aggression that interrupted the process of consolidating democracy initiated with the holding of elections and the assumption of power by the Government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Once again in its history, the Haitian people has found an obstacle in the path of its desire for peace and prosperity within the framework of democracy and respect for human rights. Mexico lent its voice to the condemnation of these events and reiterated its desire to contribute to the efforts aimed at finding an early political solution.

As soon as the crisis in Haiti erupted, Mexico insisted that the problem required the attention of the General Assembly of our Organization. The reasons for this position are clear, and we believe that they should set a pattern for the consideration of situations of this kind in the future.

In the first place, it seems essential to my delegation to distinguish those problems that do indeed constitute a threat to international peace and security from those related to national crises - for example, the disruption of the institutional order or situations that give rise to concerns of a humanitarian nature. Making this distinction is not about establishing hierarchies or priorities. Both cases merit our most serious attention and undoubtedly give grounds for deep concern. Nevertheless, to confuse the nature of the two types of problems creates institutional difficulties within the United Nations, given the clarity with which the Charter establishes mandates, and could as a consequence lead to the implementation of corrective measures inappropriate to the specific situation under consideration.

(Mr. Villegas, Mexico)

Secondly, a misconception would appear to exist that, if the Security Council does not assume responsibility for seeking solutions to conflict situations, that would detract from the importance of the problem in question. Obviously, that is not so. On the contrary, we believe that, by virtue of its character as the highest organ of the United Nations and of its universality, the General Assembly's consideration of such situations as that facing Haiti is the most convincing proof of the importance this Organization attaches to finding a peaceful solution.

Nor must we forget that not all the problems of concern to the community of nations can be solved by recourse to the measures provided for in Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. We believe that a broad avenue continues to exist for diplomatic action and, if necessary, for bringing certain types of pressure to bear. Recent experience has shown that there are limitations to the Security Council's capacity for effective action. At the same time, we believe that its agenda should not be overloaded when other viable options exist for our Organization to help solve various types of problems.

Lastly, in the specific case of Haiti, the Organization of American States (OAS) has taken a series of important steps under a mandate from the region's Foreign Ministers. Moreover, this was done with the cooperation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At a time when we are seeking to strengthen the role of regional agencies, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, it appears vital to us that we continue supporting the steps being taken by the OAS. To attempt to transfer the question of Haiti directly from the OAS to the Security Council would not only weaken that regional mechanism's capacity for action; it would also set a dangerous precedent for similar scenarios and weaken the Secretary-General's vision outlined in "An Agenda for Peace".

(Mr. Villegas, Mexico)

Our position, in short, represents a vote of confidence in the General Assembly and its capacity to act. Similarly, we maintain that categorizing situations of an internal nature as threats to international peace and security is wrong. Moreover, it is dangerous in that it brings us closer to adopting presumably corrective measures that, given the very nature of problems of this type, can only aggravate an already tragic situation.

Those are the reasons why the draft resolution before the General Assembly emphasizes the need to establish, as rapidly as possible, a broad and peaceful settlement in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. We are sure that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in taking the necessary steps requested of him in the text will make a significant contribution to resolving the crisis in Haiti.

That being said, we wish to make it clear that we are concerned over the current situation in Haiti, which, as the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/47/599 rightly states, has given rise to a serious humanitarian situation. Once again, the people of Haiti has fallen victim to appalling conditions, and we consider that all States are duty bound to contribute to a solution within the framework indicated in the draft resolution before the General Assembly. This is precisely a case requiring a demonstration of political will by all States represented here to reverse an illegal situation. Responding to the call contained in the various operative paragraphs of the draft resolution will strengthen the moral authority of the General Assembly itself and of the Organization as a whole.

(Mr. Villegas, Mexico)

Similarly, we hope that States outside the region will align their policies with the measures adopted by the Organization of American States. Today more than ever before, it is apparent that there are no problems that affect only one or another region of the planet. Our concerns are global and our commitment must be worldwide.

The decision of this forum must send a clear message to the people of Haiti that it has not been forgotten by the community of nations. Our responsibility is to the integrity of that people and to respect for its dignity. Our commitment is to the restoration of lawful institutions and, in addition, to supporting Haiti's development and well-being. Today in the General Assembly, we must give the people of Haiti new hope. Tomorrow, we must take steps to ensure that Haiti is able to overcome its problems and eliminate once and for all the vicious circle that has long brought such suffering to that people.

Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): The coup d'état that overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 September 1991 moved world public opinion and in particular that of Latin America. Until that moment, and for the first time this century, Haiti had enjoyed an undeniably democratic Government, the result of free elections in which the Haitian people had spoken overwhelmingly in favour of the winning candidate. In this way, the people of that country demonstrated its rejection of the political repression and violation of human rights practised by earlier dictatorships.

The coup d'état also interrupted a process of democratization that was unprecedented in all of Latin America. That, together with the hopes that had been placed in the recently installed Government of Haiti - which promised respect for human rights, the end of political violence, and an improvement in

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

the socio-economic conditions of the people - produced deep regret and concern throughout our region.

That is why the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on that same day approved a resolution condemning the coup d'état and those who had planned it and demanding respect for the Constitution and rights of the Haitian people. On 3 October 1991, the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OAS adopted a resolution recommending the diplomatic, economic and financial isolation of the de facto authorities in that country and the suspension of all assistance not strictly humanitarian in nature.

On 11 October 1991, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 46/7 by consensus, condemning the attempted illegal replacement of the constitutional President of Haiti, the use of violence and the violation of human rights, and requesting the Secretary-General to consider providing support sought by the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in implementing the mandates arising from resolutions adopted by the regional organization.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

Since then the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations have been exerting great efforts to restore constitutional order and respect for human rights in Haiti. To that end, talks between the representatives of the deposed Government and of the de facto Government have been held under the auspices of the OAS in Cartegena de Indias, Caracas and Washington.

High-level missions have been sent to Haiti to meet with the authorities in power. The most recent mission, which was led by the Secretary-General of the OAS and in which a representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations participated, visited Haiti from 18 to 21 August 1992 and met with various sectors of Haitian society. That mission reached an agreement on the dispatch of 18 civilian observers from the OAS, who were given the task of visiting various parts of tne country to help reduce violence, promote respect for human rights, facilitate the distribution of humanitarian assistance and evaluate the progress achieved towards solving the crisis.

All the efforts made by the international community and by the OAS, in particular, have failed thus far to achieve the desired results. My country believes that the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights in Haiti are two indispensable conditions for solving the problem. The draft resolution submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group to the General Assembly for consideration reflects that opinion. For that reason, my delegation supports that draft resolution and hopes it will be adopted by consensus.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the United States on a point of order.

Mr. WATSON (United States of America): Under rule 77 (a) of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, I should like to present a motion to suspend the meeting for a brief period so that we can make efforts to achieve a better - in fact a perfect - result on the draft resolution that is before the Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Haiti on a point of order.

Mr. LONGCHAMP (Haiti) (interpretation from French): The delegation of Haiti regrets that it must oppose the motion to suspend the meeting.

The PRESIDENT: I shall suspend the meeting for 20 minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 5.45 p.m. and resumed at 6.35 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: As presiding officer, I believed that it was in the best interests of these proceedings - to maintain order, and as it was unclear under which rule we were operating - to suspend the meeting briefly. I apologize if this may have caused any misunderstanding or delay.

Mr. BIVERO (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): I am grateful to you, Sir, for the time you have allowed us to hold consultations with interested delegations on the text of the draft resolution we are now considering. As a result of these consultations I should like to propose, with the assent of all the parties concerned, the replacement of the seventh preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/47/L.23 with the following text, which I shall read in English. The replacement text, which has the agreement of all the delegations concerned and which we submit to the General Assembly for consideration, reads:

(spoke in English)

"Concerned that the persistence of this situation contributes to a climate of fear of persecution and economic dislocation which could increase the number of Haitians seeking refuge in neighbouring Member States and convinced that a reversal of this situation is needed to prevent its negative repercussions on the region".

(spoke in Spanish)

With these amendments we trust that the text of draft resolution A/47/L.23 will be agreeable to Member States and that it can be adopted by consensus.

The PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to take action on draft resolution A/47/L.23, as orally revised, I wish to announce that Canada has become a sponsor.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/47/L.23, as orally revised?

Draft resolution A/47/L.23, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 47/20).

The PRESIDENT: Before calling on representatives who wish to explain their position on the resolution just adopted, I remind them that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. SABALAT (Haiti) (interpretation from French): My delegation joins the representative of Venezuela in expressing on behalf of the people and Government of Haiti its sincere gratitude for, and deep appreciation of, the Assembly's speedy response in considering the draft resolution submitted at the current session.

On this memorable day of the adoption by the world community of a commitment to the restoration of democracy to our country, my delegation is happy to express its most sincere thanks for the support of all the delegations which voted in favour of this historic resolution. It would be tedious - and indeed impossible - for me to give a complete account of the Assembly's friendship, generosity and solidarity extended to us on this occasion. However, we must not fail to discharge the pleasant duty of emphasizing the exceptional commitment of the representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean in being with the Haitian delegation until today's successful outcome.

(Mr. Sabalat, Haiti)

The delegation of Venezuela and its Chairman, the countries of the Caribbean Community and the other delegations that sponsored the draft resolution can be assured of the underlying gratitude of the people and the constitutional Government of Haiti.

Mrs. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America): The United States remains committed to the restoration of the democratic process and the rule of law in Haiti and to a negotiated settlement that will return constitutional government to that country.

My Government's condemnation of the coup d'état which overthrew President Aristide on 30 September 1991 was swift and unequivocal. We have supported unconditionally the resolutions of the meetings of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of American States (OAS) of 3 October 1991, 8 October 1991 and 17 May 1992. We support the OAS in calling for financial and commercial sanctions to pressure the illegal régime to conclude a political settlement and restore the legitimate Government to office. The United States does not recognize and does not conduct routine business with the illegal government in Port-au-Prince.

The United States has condemned in the strongest terms the violence and the violations of human rights that occurred in Haiti following the coup and which have occurred with disturbing frequency in the ensuing months. The United States delegation urges all parties in Haiti to refrain from further violence, whether against individuals or institutions. We urge all parties to respect their obligations to abide strictly by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to observe fundamental principles of human decency.

It has become clear that any settlement must include guarantees and assurances that the rights all parties will be protected. Acting now to

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respect and protect those rights in practice will help substantially to create an atmosphere conducive to meaningful negotiations.

The United States applauds the efforts of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States to promote dialogue aimed at resolving the Haitian crisis. We applaud the support given those efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. OAS Secretary General Baena Soares led a large delegation to Haiti from 17 to 21 August. His efforts resulted in agreement on talks between the two Haitian parties and the deployment of an OAS civilian mission in Haiti. Meetings that took place under Ambassador Baena Soares's auspices in Washington in early September led to agreement to ask former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley to serve as a facilitator in further discussions between the Haitian parties.

Nevertheless, we remain concerned that these talks have not made greater progress. We are dismayed that the resolution we have just approved does not specifically highlight the importance of these talks, and we urge that negotiations proceed expeditiously. The United States calls on all members of this body to urge the two sides to enter into meaningful and constructive discussions. These discussions must be aimed at a mutually acceptable political settlement at the earliest possible date. Further delay serves no one's interest. On the contrary, delay can only harden positions and cause further hardship for the long-suffering people of Haiti.

Mindful of this suffering, the United States has provided substantial humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people. It is our intention to continue to do so. We also call on all Member States to increase humanitarian aid to Haiti.

Finally, the United States remains concerned that the failure to implement OAS and United Nations resolutions on Haiti prolongs tension and

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contributes to the economic dislocation that encourages the migration of the Haitian people. This migration is a potentially destabilizing element for other States in the region. The United States has given asylum to large numbers of Haitians during the last year. We have also received thousands of applications from Haitians applying for refugee status at our Embassy in Port-au-Prince. But the United States cannot do all this alone. Our facilities have been overwhelmed. We call on others to assist in what is clearly an international problem. In fact, the United States has approached many countries, but the responsibility has not been assumed. The region has thus far failed to respond with solutions to the problems.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 22.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to make an announcement with regard to our programme of work for the morning of Monday, 30 November. At that meeting the General Assembly will take up the following: the report of the First Committee on agenda item 60, agenda item 150 and agenda item 40.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.